

Right now it is the most wonderful time of year. It is also the most frantic and maddening time. We've commenced our shopping, decorating, and planning for the "best Christmas ever." Or maybe we're completely stressed and wringing our hands because we have no idea how we'll pull it off this year. Church leaders aren't exempt from the frenetic pace by any means, because we've had Advent on our brains for some time already. We juggle the expectations of our people, the extra services and cantatas, the influx of worshipers who we may see only around this time of year. And oh yes, we have to plan our menus, do our shopping, and deck our halls like everyone else in our parish, too. It's the most distracting time of the year. We spend so much of Advent preparing for Christmas that we forget to prepare for Christ's arrival. We neglect to prepare for the coming of the Lord and to consider what that means. We fail to stop and examine the existing paradigms and how they will be shifted and toppled at the Messiah's arrival. In Luke's gospel, Jesus talks about the signs in nature and the widespread trembling that will precede the Son of Man's arrival. It doesn't sound too far off from what's happening in our world. The environment is literally changing before our eyes.

Spiritual Revival Day
WED 16th DEC.
Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament from 1 – 6pm
(personal prayers and
Confessions). 6pm Holy
Mass. After the Mass till
8.30pm Confessions
and Evening Prayer.



The Advent Wreath is the liturgical symbol for Advent. It is composed of four candles three purples and one pink. The colour purple is a penitential colour. Some advent wreaths have a fifth candle (white one) symbolising Jesus Christ the Light of the World. Each Sunday during Advent a purple candle is lit with the exception of the third Sunday of Advent when a pink candle is lit on Gaudete Dominica or Rejoice Sunday.

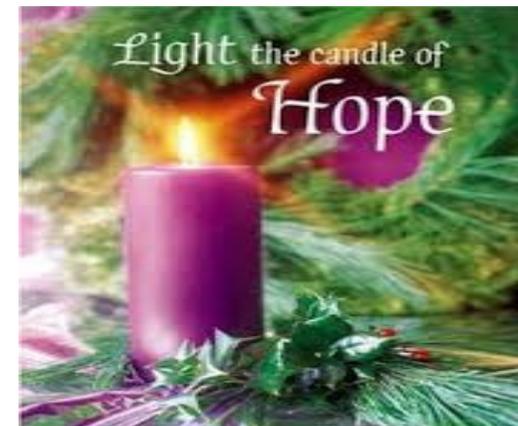


PLANNING YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY ? FRI 18TH DEC. IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 6PM. BYO FOOD/DRINKS. DECORATE YOUR TABLE PLEASE. ALL.WELCOME!

Trembling is hardly in short supply. Are we too distracted to pay attention to the signs? When the Son of Man comes, will we be caught unawares, encumbered by the banalities of life? Will we have checked out completely, content to devote our attention to the distractions? Will we be looking instead for the things that will help us forget that wars still rage, racism still persists, and children are still shot in the streets? Jesus' eschatological discourse in The gospel is also a call to pay attention--something we sorely need in these early days of Advent. At the onset of this season of expectation, we're called to remember what it is we're expecting. If the Son of Man is to come, he's coming to change some things. What does this mean for the single mom who works 50 hours a week and is as stressed every month trying to figure out how to pay for groceries as she is this month trying to pay for Christmas gifts? What does this mean for the immigrant family trapped in a detention centre? What exactly are we looking toward? When the Son of Man comes and our redemption is at hand, what will this mean? What needs redeeming--what can no longer persist because it is at odds with a just and loving Saviour? Perhaps these are more pertinent and urgent Advent considerations than what songs to include in this year's hymn singing. (T. Denise Anderson)

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29th Nov 2015 (C)

1st Sun. of Advent

1ST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

2ND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

To follow on the internet :

"Zenit News"; "Catholic on Line";
 "Liturgical Year Calendar", "Spirit Daily",
 Children's web: Google, EWTNKIDS. "Tim
 Staples; Catholic Sacraments, videos";
 "Catholic Answers", "Catholica"
www.vocationcentre.org.au
 Godgossip; American Thinker; tarsus.ie.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15–5:45p: Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;

Sun 4:00–4:30pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER (SAT. &

SUN): 4:00 to 4:25pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 28/11/15 to Fri 4/12/15)

Sun 9:30am: †Aloysius Chong (2nd Anniv.)

Sun 5pm: †Anthony Chong

OUR SICK: Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Pat De La Motte, Richard Swords, Barry Dunn and Southern Cross residents...

Happy Birthday to: Hae-Jung Kim (30th).

Anointing Masses will be held on next weekend of 5th / 6th December.

SVdP Christmas Appeal will be held next weekend. Please use the specially printed envelopes that will be available in the pews for your donations and place them on the collection plates. Thank you for sharing X'mas with the underprivileged by your kind donations to SVdP.

Triple Celebrations in the hall on **Sat 12th Dec. after the Thanksgiving Vigil Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

- 1) El-Shaddai Prayer Group Christmas Get-together
- 2) Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebrations
- 3) Rose Houghton's birthday...

Parish School News: 1) Family Mass: **Sat 28th Nov: Yr 1;** Sat 5th Dec: KB. 2) End of year Mass: **Mon 14th Dec.** 3) Personalised engraved tiles are now available @ \$50 each for the Centenary Garden. For details and application forms, contact School office. Offer closes 14th Dec.

Piety Stall: SVdP X'mas cards: \$2.50 per pack of 5 cards.

Other notices: **For Love Alone.** A night for single young women (18-35) who want to discover more about consecrated life. **Wed 16 Dec** at 5pm at JPll Student Centre, 150 City Rd, Darlington NSW 2008. Cost: Free but RSVP is essential by 1st Dec to usydchaplancy@gmail.com. **RSVP ASAP: Women's Retreat With The Sisters of Life** (from New York): Tue 8th Dec from 9am-4pm at the Broadway Campus of the University of Notre Dame Australia. Free but RSVP essential on 02 9307 8433.

Diocesan Financial Administrator required at the Diocese of Broken Bay. For further information, please ring Anthony Spata on 0402 210 055.

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs one-bedroom unit is now open for inspection. Please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) on 9349 1292 for an appointment or for further details.

This weekend: Vigil: N Sarmiento (A) P Tjugito, J Spora (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam(C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab, J Hoang (A) A Burke, A Obiano (R) J Yong, G Pullela (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: Anu V, Magdi Z(A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) S Pedisich, K Wong (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) Volunteer (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** M Wells

Next weekend: Vigil: N Sarmiento (A) F & G Hogan (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab, J Hoang (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: Anu V, Magdi Z (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

The attacks in Paris were centred on the city where the Miraculous Medal revelations occurred in 1830, messages from Mary that likewise had warned of upheaval in society due to its evil. At Rue du Bac in 1830 the Blessed Mother introduced a new phase in the history of her apparitions. In those appearances she warned that a dark era lay in the immediate future as she struck a pose in which she stepped on a serpent. Holding a globe, she revealed herself in worldwide dispute with the forces of dark. "The times are evil," she told Saint Catherine Laboure. "Misfortunes of all kinds will befall France." It pertains today as it also did in the upheavals of the 19th century. "The whole world will be turned upside-down by misfortunes of all kinds."



November 27, is the Feast of the Miraculous Medal.

There is also the mystical component of "coincidence": The material used to make the bombs in Paris was triacetone triperoxide and is nicknamed "Mother of Satan" (due to its extreme volatility) and a band from California called "Eagles of Death" was seven songs into a concert at that hall when its performance of a song called "Kiss the Devil" was interrupted by gunfire Friday (the 13th, 2015). Band members had to flee through a backstage exit, and on Saturday nixed the remaining dates on a European tour. Heavy metal. Brushing up against the devil. Inviting it, often unknowingly. (From Spirit Daily).

CHRISTMAS PIETY STALL SALE: THIS WEEKEND....

Learn about Catholic Faith: Sunday at 11.00am to 12Noon (Presbytery). "The Messenger"

"God's Word 2016" books: Individual books are now being sold at \$10 each in the piety stall.

Thank you to the members of the Parish Mission Board and Finance Committee for their presence at the meeting last Monday. It was a very valid conversation and reflection upon our Community and our ministry to the faithful people of St. Michael's Church. The date for the next meeting will be conveyed to you in the coming weeks. Fr Jerzy

The use of the wreath was very common among the Germanic peoples even before Christianity. Wreaths were gathered and fires lighted as signs of hope in a coming spring. Christians kept these folkloric traditions alive, and by 16th century Catholic and Protestants throughout Germany used this symbol of hope to celebrate their advent of hope in Christ, the everlasting light. This symbol and tradition spread to the entire western Church.

